

Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11) EP 0 801 517 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3: 10.12.1997 Bulletin 1997/50

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: **H05B 33/12**, H01H 13/02, H01H 9/16

- (43) Date of publication A2: 15.10.1997 Bulletin 1997/42
- (21) Application number: 97109902.3
- (22) Date of filing: 11.07.1996
- (84) Designated Contracting States: **DE FR GB**
- (30) Priority: 14.07.1995 JP 178490/95 14.07.1995 JP 178499/95
- (62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in accordance with Art. 76 EPC: 96305101.6 / 0 753 985
- (71) Applicant:

 MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.

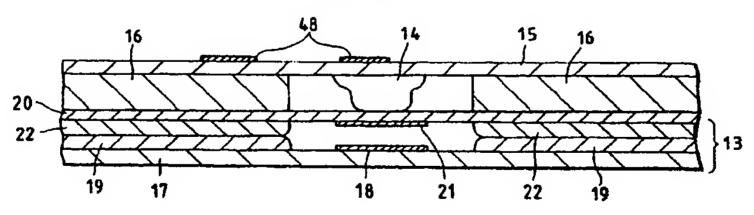
 Kadoma-shi Osaka (JP)
- (72) Inventors:Tanabe, KojiKatano-shi, Osaka (JP)

- Chikahisa, Yosuke Katano-shi, Osaka (JP)
- Ikoma, Heiji
 Neyagawa-shi, Osaka (JP)
- Ohara, Masahiro
 Katano-shi, Osaka (JP)
- Kuwahara, Masaru Hirakata-shi, Osaka (JP)
- (74) Representative:
 Senior, Alan Murray et al
 J.A. KEMP & CO.,
 14 South Square,
 Gray's Inn
 London WC1R 5LX (GB)

(54) Illuminated switch unit

- (57) In an illuminated switch unit, a switch operating projection (14) is provided on the reverse surface of an EL lighting element (15) and this EL lighting element (15) is fixed above a membrane switch (13) via spacer
- (16), thereby removing any obstacles interrupting or intercepting illumination light emitted from EL lighting element (15).





EP 0 801 517 A3



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Rember

EP 97 10 9902

Category	Citation of document with in of relevant passe	dication, where appropriate,	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.CI.6)
X	US 4 532 395 A (ZUK July 1985	OWSKI RAYMOND W) 30 - column 3, line 39	1,4-6	H05B33/12 H01H13/02 H01H9/16
X	DATABASE WP1 Section EI, Week 85 Derwent Publication Class T04, AN 85-15 XP002042904 & JP 60 086 716 A (1985 * abstract; figure	s Ltd., London, GB; 5611 TOSHIBA KK) , 16 May		
	WO 96 30919 A (MATS) LTD ;TANABE KOUJI (* abstract; figure	USHITA ELECTRIC IND JP)) 3 October 1996 2 *	CO 1,4,6	
	1982	NN ROBERT E) 16 March		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF vol. 016, no. 513 (1992 & JP 04 192231 A (1992, * abstract *	JAPAN E-1283), 22 October FUJIKURA LTD), 10 Ju	ly 1	SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) H05B H01H
	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF vol. 014, no. 394 (I & JP 02 148633 A (I 1990, * abstract *	JAPAN E-0969), 24 August 19 FUJIKURA LTD), 7 June	990	
	The present search report has be	en drawn up for all claims Date of completion of the searce		Examiner
	THE HAGUE	8 October 1997	i	de, M
X : pertic Y : pertic docur A : techn	TEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS sularly relevant if taken alone sularly relevant if combined with another ment of the same category sological background written disclosure	T : theory or print: E : earlier patent eafter the filing T D : document of L : document of	noiple underlying the in	vention

2



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number EP 97 10 9902

etegory	Citation of document with indication of relevant passages	n, where appropriate,	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION	
	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAP vol. 014, no. 009 (E-87 & JP 01 255118 A (MATS CO LTD), 12 October 198 * abstract *	0), 10 January 1989 USHITA ELECTRIC IND	1		(1110110)
		-			
				TECHNICAL F	IELDS (Int.Cl.6)
				· · · ·	
	The present search report has been dr	awn up for all claims			
	Place of search	Date of completion of the search		Examiner	
	THE HAGUE	8 October 1997	Shad	e, M	
X : parti Y : parti docu	TEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS cularly relevant if taken alone cularly relevant if combined with another ment of the same category nological background	T: theory or principle u E: earlier patent documenter the filing date D: document cited in the L: document cited for a	nent, but publishene application wither reasons	ention ed on, or	

3